



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## CROPS SHOW POTENTIAL DESPITE SUMMER HEAT

**NASHVILLE, August 12, 2010** – Temperatures across Tennessee averaged 2 to 9 degrees above average during July. Also, precipitation was very scattered and highly variable, even within communities in the same county, but was lower than average across the state. Despite sweltering temperatures and sporadic rainfall, the state's major row crops showed average to above average yield potential. An August 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 125 bushels per acre, down 23 bushels from last year's record yield of 148 bushels; **Cotton**, 887 pounds per acre, up 44 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 39 bushels per acre, 6 bushels below last year's record yield of 45 bushels per acre; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,900 pounds per acre, down 20 pounds from last year; and **Hay, except alfalfa**, 2.2 tons per acre, unchanged from 2009.

## COTTON PRODUCTION UP SHARPLY

Tennessee's cotton production is forecast at 730,000 bales, up 48 percent from last year's production of 492,000 bales. Cotton yields are expected to average 887 pounds per acre, up 44 pounds from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 395,000 acres, up 115,000 acres from 2009. Prospects are for an excellent crop due to adequate heat units and timely showers. Cotton planted in early May, before the heavy rains set in, looks especially promising. Insect pressure from pests such as stink bugs, plant bugs and worms has been moderate and producers are scouting and spraying accordingly. As of August 8, the cotton crop was setting bolls with some opening. Over 75% of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition.

## SOYBEAN PRODUCTION DOWN A FIFTH

Soybean production is forecast at 55.0 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year. Soybean yields are forecast at 39 bushels per acre, 6 bushels below the previous record of 45 bushels per acre set in 2009. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.41 million acres, down 120,000 from a year ago. The decrease in acreage was largely due to an increase in cotton acres. Because of the extremely wet spring and hot, dry weather that followed, soybeans have been highly variable in condition and yield potential. The crop is developing at the normal pace for this point in the season. Through the week ending August 8, eighty-nine percent of the crop was blooming, and 71 percent of the crop was setting pods. The crop was rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

## CORN PRODUCTION SLIDES FROM 2009

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 75.0 million bushels, down 14 percent from a year ago. Yields are expected to average 125 bushels per acre, 23 bushels below 2009's record yield of 148 bushels per acre, but equal to the 5-year average. Farmers expect to harvest 600,000 acres for grain, 10,000 less than last year. Despite the widespread flooding of thousands of acres and prolonged wet field conditions and replants, planting was mostly completed by the end of May with the crop emerging on schedule. As a result of these delays and losses, however, some acres initially planned for corn were switched over to other crops. After weeks of dry weather, the continued lack of moisture coupled with high temperatures caused problems during the critical pollination phase and also during the ear-fill stage. As of the week ending August 8, over 90% of the state's corn crop had reached the dough stage with nearly three-fourths of the crop in the dent stage, exceeding the normal pace. The majority of the crop was currently rated in fair-to-good condition.

## APPLE PRODUCTION RISES

Apple growers are expected to produce an estimated 9.0 million pounds of apples, up from last year's production of 8.0 million pounds. Growers are cautiously optimistic for an abundant crop, but dry weather and labor concerns may limit production.

(OVER)

## BURLEY PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY

As of August 1, burley production is forecast at 28.5 million pounds, up 6 percent from a year ago. Yields are forecast to average 1,900 pounds per acre, down 20 pounds from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 15,000 acres, an increase of 1,000 acres from 2009. Dry weather has taken its toll on tobacco, especially in upper Middle Tennessee. Growers that irrigate haven't been able to pump enough water to their crops; in some cases, irrigation ponds are dry. Some growers are prematurely cutting plants to avoid further deterioration. A soaking rain is badly needed. Producers are topping now and as of the week ending August 8, sixty percent of the crop had been topped, slightly ahead of the normal pace. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,800 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from the previous year, while dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,500 pounds per acre, down 200 pounds from 2009.

## HAY PRODUCTION HOLDS STEADY

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.18 million tons, unchanged from 2009. Yields are expected to average 2.2 tons per acre, also equal to last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.9 million acres, the same as a year earlier. Temperatures across Tennessee averaged from well above average during June and July. Also, below average precipitation contributed to less than optimal growing conditions. As of the week ending August 8, pastures were rated in mostly fair-to-good condition.

### CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2010, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	8,890	10,000	8,000	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	590	600	148	125	87,320	75,000
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	280	395	843	887	492	730
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	Ton	1,900	1,900	2.20	2.20	4,180	4,180
Soybeans	bu.	1,530	1,410	45.0	39.0	68,850	54,990
Tobacco, All	lb.	21.6	22.3	2,313	2,180	49,960	48,610
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.4	6.2	3,100	2,800	19,840	17,360
Burley	lb.	14.0	15.0	1,920	1,900	26,880	28,500
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.2	1.1	2,700	2,500	3,240	2,750
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	190	51.0	52.0	17,340	9,880
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,914,900	9,476,100
Corn for grain	bu.	79,590	81,005	164.7	165.0	13,110,062	13,365,225
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	7,529	10,631	777	837	12,188	18,534
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	38,528	38,924	1.98	2.09	76,412	81,439
Soybeans	bu.	76,372	77,986	44.0	44.0	3,359,011	3,433,370
Tobacco, All	lb.	354.2	327.4	2,322	2,210	822,567	723,543
Dark fire-cured	lb.	16.2	15.4	3,281	3,090	52,990	47,590
Burley	lb.	101.9	91.3	2,109	2,070	214,896	189,015
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.8	5.9	2,938	2,825	17,040	16,670
Winter Wheat	bu.	34,485	32,085	44.2	47.5	1,522,718	1,522,902

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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